

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

VOLUME XXIII.

ASHLAND, O., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1901.

No. 7.

Testimony of Science on the Effects of Beer Drinking.

When the minister of the gospel preaches against the use of strong drink in any form ; when from his own observation and reliable statistics at his command he shows the evil effects of beer drinking, its demoralizing influence, the moral, the financial and spiritual ruin it works, those who hold opposite views are inclined to attach little or no weight to his utterances, consoling themselves in the make-belief that the minister is a "fanatic" on the subject of temperance, so biased in mind that he cannot pronounce impartial judgement. When a temperance lecturer delivers himself on the subject, the world of beer drinkers and users of other strong drink, call him a "crank," paid to make unwarranted statements with a view of creating sentiment against the traffic in liquor. But when *science* takes up the subject and announces the results of its own impartial investigation what will these defenders of strong drink say ?

When an authority no less than that which stands back of the Scientific American, a periodical whose only subject is to correctly report the results of scientific investigation, not from a moral or religious point of view, but from the real facts in the case regardless of consequences, the unbelieving world (in temperance) can not dismiss the subject as the deliverance of temperance "cranks" and "fanatics." Let the daily beer drinker, the man who claims it a wholesome drink, read the following from the Scientific American :

"For some years a decided inclination has been apparent all over the country to give up the use of whiskey and other strong alcohols, using as a substitute beer and other compounds. This is evidently founded on the idea that beer is not harmful, and contains a large amount of nutriment ; also that bitters may have some medicinal quality which will neutralize the alcohol it conceals.

"These theories are without confirmation in the observation of physicians. The use of beer is found to produce a species of degeneration of all the organs ; profound and deceptive fatty deposits, diminished circulation, conditions of congestion and perversion of functional activities, local inflammations of both the liver and kidneys are constantly present.

"Intellectually, a stupor, amounting to almost a paralysis, arrests the reason, changing all the higher faculties into a mere animalism, sensual, selfish, sluggish, varied only with paroxysms of anger that are senseless and brutal.

"In appearance the beer-drinker may be the picture of health, but in reality he is most incapable of resisting disease. A slight injury, a severe cold or a shock to the body or mind will commonly provoke acute disease ending fatally. Compared with inebriates who use different kinds of alcohol, he is more incurable, and more generally diseased. The constant use of beer every day gives the system no recuperation, but steadily lowers the vital forces. It is our observation that beer-drinking in this country produces the very lowest kind of inebriety, closely allied to criminal insanity. The most dangerous ruffians in our large cities are beer drinkers. Recourse to beer as a substitute for other forms of alcohol merely increases the danger and fatality."